DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 225 726 RC 013 766

AUTHOR Pla, Myrna; Toro, Leonor
TITLE What's Happening in December?
INSTITUTION Connecticut State Migratory Children's Program, New Haven.; Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, Conn.
SPONS AGENCY Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (ED), Washington, DC. Migrant Education Programs.
PUB DATE Dec 82
NOTE 80p.; For related documents, see RC 013 764-765 and ED 212 394. Best copy available.
AVAILABLE FROM Ethnic/Arts Migrant Project, Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, 1450 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517-2497.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Cultural Activities; Cultural Awareness; Cultural Education; Elementary Education; Folk Culture; Illustrations; *Language Arts; *Learning Activities; *Migrant Education; Poetry; Puerto Rican Culture; *Puerto Ricans; Short Stories
IDENTIFIERS Christmas; Connecticut; Holidays; *Recipes (Food); Winter

ABSTRACT

Part of a series of monthly booklets designed as a teacher resource for teaching about Puerto Rican and U.S. culture, the booklet provides brief information on two December events: winter and Christmas. Brief information is provided on winter, Hanukkah, Christmas traditions in Connecticut and in Puerto Rico, and Christmas symbols (the tree, carols, poinsettias, cards, and Santa Claus). The booklet includes the words to nine poems--"Cold Winter Now Is in the Wood," "Christmas in the City," "Mrs. Santa Claus," "Christmas Is Coming," "This Is the Way That Christmas Comes," "The Night before Christmas," "Hanukkah Rainbow," and "Happy Hanukkah!"; one short story-"The Pine Tree"; one play--"Present for Santa"; and seven songs--"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "White Christmas," "Silent Night," and "The First Noel." Recipes for making cookie people, a popcorn jolly snowman, Rocky Roads, and potato latkes are provided along with a dreidel pattern and illustrations of Rudolph (the Red-Nosed Reindeer), a lighted candle, Christmas bells, a holly leaf, and Santa Claus knocking at the door. A word game and word scramble are also included. (NQA)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED225726
RC 01 3788

What's Happening

FEB 1983
RECEIVED
ERIC/CRESS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
✓ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Leonor Lord

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

in December?

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY ETHNIC/ARTS PROJECT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
ETHNIC/ARTS COMPONENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

Materials prepared by:
Myrna Plá
Bridgeport Board of Education

Leonor Toro, Coordinator
Migratory Ethnic/Arts Component

Illustrated by:
Justo Ortiz "Tito"

Curriculum Assistant:
Roberta Hanson

Funds for this project were provided by the Federal Migrant Program under a special State Cultural Awareness Component Grant to the Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, Dr. Robert S. Avery, Director.

Copies can be obtained from the Ethnic/Arts Migrant Project, located at the Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, 1450 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517-2497.

Special thanks are given to Dr. Patrick Proctor, ESEA State Title I Director, Migratory Children's Program, Connecticut State Department of Education and to Mr. Reinaldo Matos, State Migrant Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education, for their efforts and assistance in bringing this booklet from an idea to the present stage of its development. December, 1982.

"What's Happening" is designed as a resource for teachers' use only.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
What's Happening in December	1
Winter	2
Hanukkah (Including Recipe for Potato Latkes, Hanukkah Poems and Dreidel Pattern)	3-5
Christmas is Coming	6
Christmas Symbols	7-9
Christmas in Connecticut	10 & 11
Christmas in Puerto Rico	12 & 13
Language Arts Activities	
Poems	14 - 16
Word Game	17
The Pine Tree (Story)	18 - 26
Present For Santa (Play)	27 - 30
Music (Christmas Songs)	31 & 32
Recipes	33 - 35
Art (Christmas Cards)	36 - 38

INTRODUCTION

"What's Happening" is a new series of monthly booklets for teachers to be used as a resource in the teaching of the culture of Puerto Rico and the United States. It includes such topics as: Holidays, Cultural Activities, Poetry, Music, Teaching Activities and Folklore.

Holidays and other special days may hold as much fascination for your students as other celebrations do. The students enjoy special activities related to holidays and cultural events. They can have fun cooking dishes from different countries, have an egg hunt at Easter time, a pumpkin seed roast, a mask parade on Halloween or prepare Christmas cards for the holiday season.

They learn about other countries by discussing ethnic holidays. They can compare similarities and differences in their style of life. They can learn music, poetry, stories, etc. The holiday themes can be discussed during different activities. The teacher who cares about culture has his/her calendar organized from the beginning of the year.

What's Happening in December?...

6 Today is Saint Nicholas Day.

7 This is Pearl Harbor Day. In 1941, Japan made a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States entered World War II.

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to enter the Union.

10 In 1869, Wyoming became the birthplace of Women's Rights. The territory of Wyoming authorized women to vote.

16 The Boston Tea Party was held in 1773.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead was born in 1901. Mead studied many groups of people around the world.

19 The first radio message from space was received in 1958.

21 In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

Today marks the Winter Solstice: the shortest day of the year.

24 "Nochebuena" in Puerto Rico. This is one of the most significant days in the Puerto Rican family.

Christmas Eve in the United States.

25 Today is Christmas.

28 "Día de los Inocentes" in Puerto Rico. Masked people play tricks on children and friends.

31 New Year's Eve. Family and friends get together to wait for the New Year with a mixture of reminiscenses of the past year and promises for the coming year.

COLD WINTER NOW
IS IN THE WOOD

Cold winter now is in the wood,
The moon wades deep in snow.
Pile balsam boughs about the sills,
And let the fires glow!

The cows must stand in the dark barn,
The horses stamp all day.
Now shall the housewife bake her pies
And keep her kitchen gay.

The cat sleeps warm beneath the stove,
The dog on paws outspread;
But the brown deer with flinching hide
Seeks for a sheltered bed.

The fox steps hungry through the brush,
The lean hawk coasts the sky.
"Winter is in the wood!" the winds
In the warm chimney cry.

-Elizabeth Coatesworth

WINTER

The season of winter begins officially on December 21st with fourteen hours of darkness. This signifies the beginning of the Winter Solstice, whereby the Earth, being tilted 23½ degrees on its axis, rotates in a position with regard to the sun, that allows less direct light to reach the Northern Hemisphere.

In the Northeastern United States this is characterized by a shortened day, some very low temperatures and changes in our weather patterns.

Throughout winter, children have many ways to enjoy what some adults feel is a bothersome season. With the lowering thermometer, along comes Mom or Dad with warm clothes; hats, mittens, boots, scarves, thick jackets - plenty of "bundling-up" to protect the body from the cold.

The first silent, white snowfall stirs great excitement. Children scheme and dream of the fun they will have in the snow. They run outside, properly dressed, to build snowmen, go sledding or have snowball fights with their friends. Some children skate freely on icy ponds and ski downhill. With adults they may ski cross-country or ride snowmobiles. Sports continue to be important, even in winter with organized games of ice hockey outdoors and basketball indoors.

Children must be reminded to take caution: having fun can mask the hazards of winter's weather.

Hanukkah: Feast of Lights

The Jews were forbidden to worship God or read any of their sacred manuscripts, by the Syrian King Antiochus Epiphanes. The king even sacrificed pigs on the altar as an insult to the Jewish people.

King Antiochus commanded the Jewish people to worship Zeus and Dionysus. When they refused, hundreds of men and women died at the hands of the Syrian soldiers.

Mattathias, an old priest from the town of Modin near Jerusalem, started a revolt with his five sons. One of his sons Judah, became a leader in the first recorded struggle for religious freedom. In 165 B.C., Judah and his men recaptured all of Jerusalem by defeating the powerful Syrian armies.

The Holy Temple was cleansed of idols and rededicated with feasting and great joy. The "menorah", an eight-branched candlestick, recalls the miracle that occurred during the temple's rededication. According to the legend, there was enough oil for one day of light, but it lasted for eight days.

Hanukkah is celebrated in the Hebrew month of Kislev (December) for eight consecutive days. Special foods are eaten and some families exchange gifts. A blessing is said and the Hanukkah menorah is kindled. On each night, one more candle is lighted than on the night before.

Sources: The New Book of Knowledge
Mortimer J. Cohen

and

Resources for Creative Teaching
in Early Childhood Education
Bonnie Mack Flemming
Darlene Softley Hamilton

Recipe for Potato Latkes

2 cups raw grated potato
1 small grated onion
1 tsp. salt
1 pinch of pepper
1 Tbsp. flour (matzo meal)
1/2 Tbsp. baking powder

1. Peel the potatoes and soak in cold water.
2. Grate them and pour off the liquid. Add the grated onion, salt and pepper.
3. Mix flour and baking powder and add to potato mixture.
4. One or two well-beaten eggs may be added.
5. Drop by spoonfuls onto a hot, well-greased griddle (fry pan). Spread thin with back of spoon.
6. Turn when very brown. Drain fat.

NOTE: A potato pancake mix may also be used. Latkes are especially good served with applesauce or dipped in sour cream.

HANUKKAH RAINBOW

Eight little candles
In a row,
Gaily colored,
All aglow.
Scarlet, purple,
Green, white, blue,
Pink and yellow,
Orange too.
The menorah,
Shining bright,
Holds a rainbow
Hanukkah night.

— EVA GRANT

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

Outside, snow is slowly, softly
Falling through the wintry night.
In the house, the brass menorah
Sparkles with the candlelight.

Children in a circle listen
To the wondrous stories told,
Of the daring Maccabeans
And the miracles of old.

In the kitchen, pancakes sizzle,
Turning brown, they'll soon be done.
Gifts are waiting to be opened,
Happy Hanukkah's begun.

— EVA GRANT

Dreidel pattern

Fold on dotted lines →

Cut on solid lines →

Glue flap

Glue flap

Glue flap

Top hole for dowel

Glue flap

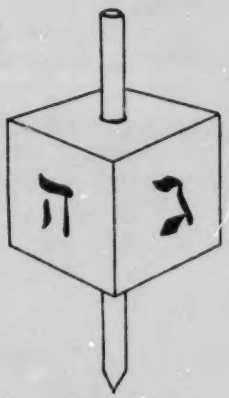
ש ה ג נ

Glue flap

Glue flap

Bottom hole for dowel

Glue flap



With paper cut-out in front of you, fold on dotted lines so flaps are inside and Hebrew letters are outside.

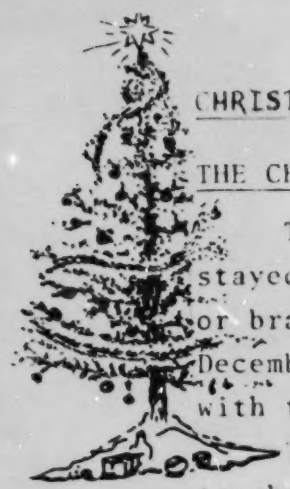
Cut holes to suit the dowel diameter

Reading from right to left the Hebrew characters from the four sides of the Dreidel.

ש	ה	ג	נ
Sham	Hayah	Gadol	Nes
THERE	WAS	GREAT	MIRACLE

"A GREAT MIRACLE WAS THERE!"

CHRISTMAS
is coming . . .
Merry Christmas
in
different languages
JOYEUX NOËL
FRENCH
WESELYCH SWIAT
POLISH
FELIZ NAVIDAD
SPANISH
BUON NATALE
ITALIAN
MERRY CHRISTMAS
ENGLISH
BOAS FESTES
PORTUGUESE
GOD JUL
SWEDISH
FROELECHE WEIHNACHTEN
GERMAN



CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

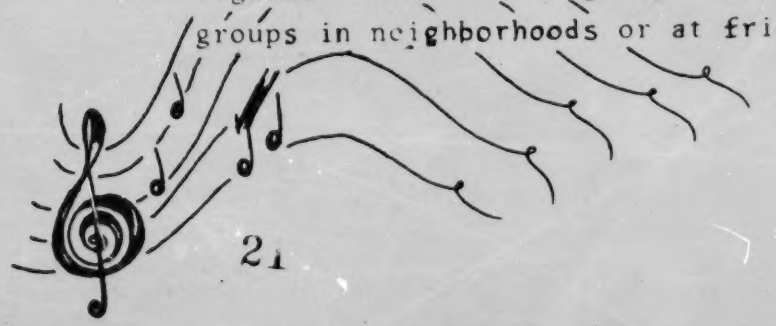
The current tradition of Christmas Tree decoration began in Germany and has stayed alive for many centuries. The custom of decorating a house with tree leaves or branches in December is actually older than Christmas. The Romans celebrated a December feast, called Saturnalia, by giving presents and decorating their houses with trees and branches.

The pagan people worshipped a sacred oak tree. When Christian missionaries taught them to celebrate Christmas, they kept the custom of cutting down and decorating a tree at that time of the year. But, instead of decorating an oak tree, they used a fir tree. The use of holly and mistletoe at Christmas also goes back to the customs of the pagan people.

The tradition that began in Germany was brought to England in 1840. The custom came to America from England and Germany.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas has had its own music and songs for many centuries. But Christmas carols do not have their origin in Christmas music. The word "carols" means "circle dance". Among many ancient people, caroling was common at festivals. Groups would dance arm-in-arm, often singing simple, happy songs. Today, carols have become a natural and happy way to express joy at Christmas time. People are organized into choral groups who sing at public concerts or into travelling singing groups in neighborhoods or at friends' homes.



POINSETTIAS

Plants and flowers are a very important part of holidays. Among the most treasured gifts at Christmas time is the POINSETTIA.*

This plant, a symbol of Christmas in many countries, was cultivated by the Aztecs of Mexico many centuries ago. Because of its brilliant red color, the blossom was considered a symbol of purity and highly prized by the native kings. The plant grows heavily in Mexico, Puerto Rico and Central America.

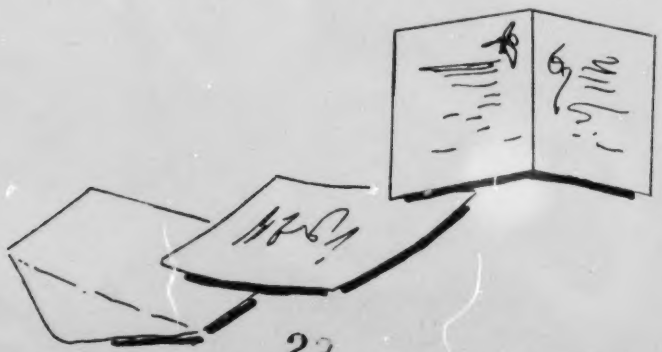
The POINSETTIA was first introduced into this country about 1828 by Dr. Joel Robert Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Poinsettias have become a traditional holiday flowering plant. People receive them as gifts during Christmas holidays.

*CAUTION: Poinsettias must be kept away from children as they are extremely poisonous if ingested.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The tradition of sending greeting cards at Christmas began in 1843. An Englishman named Henry Cole, wanted to send a message to his friends wishing them happiness at Christmas. He hired an artist named John Horsley, to design the world's first Christmas card. This card showed a large family reunion around a table. On each side of the card were scenes of people giving food and clothing to the poor.

Christmas cards became popular in the United States about 1868. Today, Americans send about four billion Christmas cards a year.



SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus is a mythical old man who brings gifts to children at Christmas. Today's Santa developed from a real person, Saint Nicholas, who lived in the A.D. 300's He was a bishop of Myra, an ancient town in Lycia, now in Turkey. He was only a boy when he became bishop. Being extremely kind, he went out at night and took presents to the needy. After his death, his fame spread throughout Europe.

Children were so fond of Saint Nicholas and his habit of bringing gifts that the custom of celebrating his feast day was maintained. Dutch settlers borrowed the legend and festivities surrounding Saint Nicholas. English-speaking children tried to pronounce the Dutch name for the saint, *Sinter Klaas*. But they said it quickly and excitedly, and soon the name changed to *Santy Claus* or *Santa Claus*.

Children in the United States, today, know Santa Claus as a round and jolly figure who wears a red suit trimmed with white fur. He has a white beard, a "nose like a cherry" and a twinkle in his eye.

In most department stores, children can tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas. They wait in long lines to climb the sparkling throne where Santa sits in his red and white suit. "Have you been good, the way you should?", he asks the girls and boys. The whole area looks like fairyland, with huge colorful displays of the latest toys.

25

26

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS CHANGE OVER THE YEARS

(Adapted from The Chronicle and Goldmine, Wednesday, November 25, 1981)

Fashions in Christmas decorations change just as they do in floral arrangements, table settings or Christmas cards. Even the traditional Christmas tree of red and green has other variations. Today, the tree is sprayed white, blue or pink and hung with colored balls, usually gold, silver or some exotic color. An angel or star still adorns the top and crystal clear lights color the tree to give the effects of candles. The new look is dramatic, but it still is a glorified tree.

Trees are of different sizes and shapes. Outdoor trees with blinking lights are still in fashion. Live, cut trees for indoor use had given way to the artificial, plastic or metal tree, but are becoming popular again.

The green holly wreath with the red bow has been replaced by a wreath of pine cones or a glittery one of gold and silver with mobile birds or butterflies for accent. Besides the wreaths that decorate windows or fireplaces, there are modern versions of tinselled materials in colors that can be used. Styles in gift wrappings have also changed. Today, you can buy ready-made bows in all sorts of colors or buy a kit with instructions to make your own. Colored yarns, ribbons and tinsel laces are available to tie packages in all shapes and widths. In fact, the old-fashioned tissue paper has given way to heavier, more gaily colored wrapping papers or metal foils.

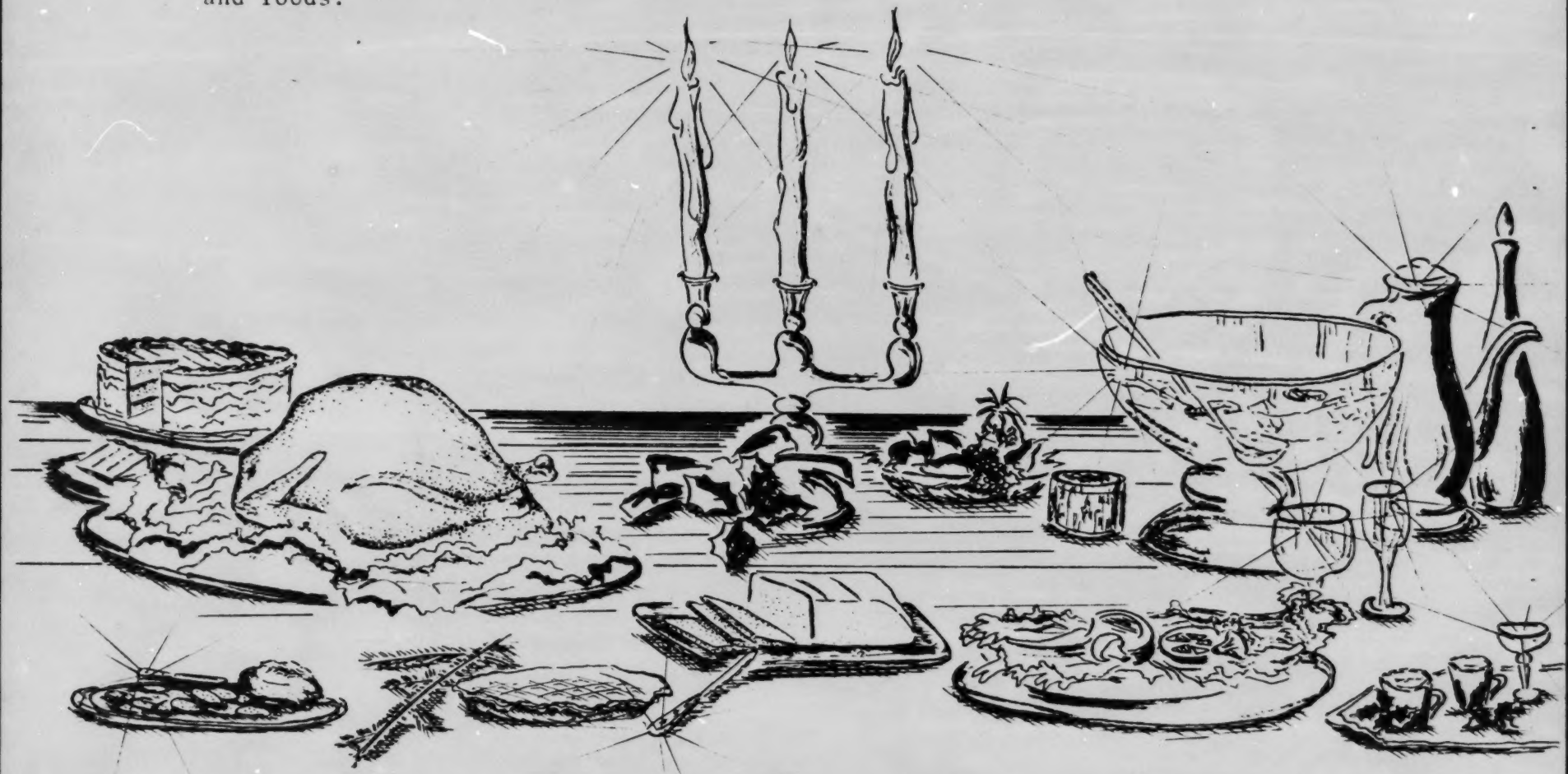
When we think about the old-fashioned cooking that began weeks ahead of time, we become a bit nostalgic.

And yet, the season of a lavish meal still persists. Either a roast turkey and cranberry sauce, a stuffed goose, or a savory ham with a casserole of sweet potatoes may adorn the table. Turnips and parsnips are still fashionable, but peas, corn,

fried eggplant, brussel sprouts and broccoli have joined the vegetable plate.

The dessert of pie or pudding may still have a place, but there are many exotic fruits. Gone are the hard nuts to crack and the cluster of raisins to top it off. The wassail bowl or eggnog has its moment before or after the gourmet meal.

The holiday season is at hand for one and all to enjoy. Regardless of the changes in holiday fashions over the years, the spirit of Christmas remains the same. And that spirit is reflected in all the traditional and changing decorations, wrappings and foods.



Christmas in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is a rich country in traditions. The Puerto Ricans are happy by nature and love parties, especially those including music in their celebration. The best time to savor Puerto Rico's traditional culture is during the Christmas season (Las Navidades). After the Thanksgiving holiday, people begin the celebration of "Las Navidades" in Puerto Rico. Merchants import shiploads of Christmas trees which are purchased and brought into many homes awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Besides the imported tree, the Puerto Ricans decorate typical native trees or small bushes planted in the yard.

Decorations are all around in the house, on buildings, in the streets creating a festive atmosphere. Among these decorations are the poinsettia flower, the lights and commercial adornments, but the Nativity stands out as a special symbol in the Christmas decorations in the homes of religious families.

Christmastime is a time for visiting friends and family. Friends organize "parrandas" (groups of roving merrymakers) that go from house to house with "asaltos" (surprising visits) until early morning. This group is also known as "trullas navideñas". Other organized groups go into the big cities with guitars, "cuatros" and maracas, strolling through shops and restaurants, singing Christmas songs, "aguinaldos", evoking nostalgia for the rural-traditional Christmas music.

December 24, at noon, is the official beginning of Christmas. The midnight mass in the Catholic Church is followed by a late night supper. The Christmas Eve supper consists of roast pig, rice with pigeon peas, and "pasteles". The "coquito" is a native drink very similar to the eggnog, but it is prepared with rum and coconut milk. Other homemade beverages such as "ponches" made with combinations of fruits and liquor are also served. Common desserts are a variety of nuts, rice pudding and "turrón".

Santa Claus brings gifts to the Puerto Rican children, especially urban families or those families that have lived in the United States.

On December 31st, Puerto Ricans celebrate New Year's Eve (Despedida de Año). In an atmosphere of joy and partying, the family reunites to pass the last hours of the year in growing anticipation of the final moments.

The last half-hour is one of great solemnity and ritual. Everybody is waiting for the New Year. According to individual beliefs, intrinsic preparations are made with intense anticipation for the striking of midnight. Some eat twelve grapes while making twelve resolutions for the New Year. Others have a toast while listening to the radio to a traditional deeply significant poem, (El brindis del bohemio), reflective of cultural values, toasting the sacredness of mothers. It is a mixture of tears and happiness. Others practice superstitions, such as washing the floor to eliminate all evil spirits or throwing water over their shoulders and into the street as if to cleanse themselves of the past year problems. Some religious groups celebrate the New Year's Eve with a membership reunion with a dinner and followed by a religious service.

Language Arts Activities

Study a poem, play word games or read a story to your children as part of your Language Arts activities during the Christmas season.

A. Poems

CHRISTMASTIME

At Christmastime I like to see
The packages beneath the tree,
The holly berries gleaming bright,
And candles glowing in the night.
I like the smell of spruce and pine,
And cookies with a wreath design,
And fireplace smoke that drifts and curls
While carols pour from boys and girls.
I like the snow that powders down,
And bells that peak across the town,
And window decorations gay,
And Baby Jesus in the hay.
And cards are nice that deck the wall,
But what I like the best of all
Are happy faces people wear
And happy feelings everywhere.

MARGARET HILLERT

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

Christmas in the city,
Crowds on every street,
Smiles on friendly faces,
Stamp of snowy feet.

Gay lights on the lampposts,
Bright trees everywhere,
Sounds of chimes and church bells
On the cold, crisp air.

Candles in the windows,
Smell of spruce and pine,
Stockings on the mantel,
Hanging in a line.

JEAN BRABHAM MCKINNEY

MRS. SANTA CLAUS

Good evening! May I introduce myself?
I've really been your friend for many years.
My husband you know well, of course,
But of his wife one seldom hears.

I keep my house as all good housewives do
I sweep and dust and mend and bake the bread,
And though it sounds like bragging, I should say
My husband always looks to be well fed!

Each year a bright new suit I cut and sew
Each suit all red and white I make with care.
My husband is a gentleman well dressed
When off he rides across the Christmas air.

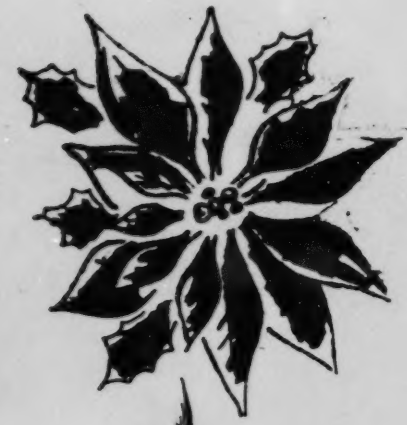
I help my husband keep his record books,
And see that every toy is free from flaws.
Perhaps by now you all have guessed my name.
I'm Mrs. Santa Claus.

LELAND JACOBS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Christmas is coming,
Santa's on his way.
You must be good
In every way.
If you can't be good
In every way,
Then try to be good,
Day by day.

CAROL S. SPRINGS



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hope that St.Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the luster of midday to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St.Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now Dash away! Dash away! Dash away, all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St.Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St.Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples—how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow:

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh,
To his team gave a whistle,
And away they flew
Like the down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim,
Ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all,
And to all a good-night."

(By Clement Clarke Moore)

THIS IS THE WAY THAT CHRISTMAS COMES

This is the way that Christmas comes.
Quietly.
Quietly with a star in the sky
For all to see.
For all to see, the star in the sky,
The star in the dark and cloudless sky.
For you. For me.

GEORGIA DEAL

B. WORD GAME

How many words can you find in the word "C H R I S T M A S"?.

(By: Josie Myr)

Unscramble these words and you will discover words whose letters are in CHRISTMAS.

RISHT	_____	ATR	_____
IRSTCH	_____	SA	_____
SRICH	_____	IMSS	_____
IMT	_____	ASRH	_____
AMS	_____	ATM	_____
ACHRM	_____	TCA	_____
ARTMS	_____	ASRHT	_____
RTACH	_____	AHSM	_____
IRSHT T	_____	SARM	_____
TRSTIA	_____		
ART	_____		

ANSWERS: SHIRT, CHRIST, CHRIS, TIM, SAM, MARCH, SMART, CHART, T-SHIRT, ARTIST, TAR, RAT, AS, MISS, RASH, MAT, CAT, TRASH, MASH, MARS

C. Read a Story To Your Children

THE PINE TREE

By Hans Christian Andersen (Translated)

Out in the woods stood such a nice little Pine Tree: he had a good place; the sun could get at him; there was fresh air enough; and round him grew many big comrades, both pines and firs. But the little Pine wanted so very much to be a grown-up tree.

He did not think of the warm sun and of the fresh air, he did not care for the little cottage-children who ran about and prattled when they were looking for wild strawberries and raspberries. Often they came with a whole jug full, or had their strawberries strung on a straw, and sat down near the little Tree and said, "Oh what a nice little fellow!" This was what the Tree could not bear to hear.

The year after he had shot up a good deal, and the next year after he was still bigger; for with pine trees one can always tell by the shoots how many years old they are.

"Oh, were I but such a big tree as the others are," sighed the little Tree. "Then I could spread my branches so far, and with the tops look out into the wide world! Birds would build nests among my branches; and when there was a breeze, I could nod as grandly as the others there."

He had no delight at all in the sunshine, or in the birds, or the red clouds which morning and evening sailed above him.

When now it was winter and the snow all around lay glittering white, a hare would often come leaping along and jump right over the little Tree. Oh, that made him so angry! But two winters went by, and with the third the Tree was so big that the hare had to go round it. "Oh, to grow, to grow, to become big and old, and be tall," thought the Tree: "that, after all, is the most delightful thing in the world!"

In autumn the wood-cutters always came and felled some of the largest trees. This happened every year, and the young Pine Tree, that was now quite well grown, trembled at the sight; for the great stately trees fell to the earth with noise and cracking, the branches were lopped off, and the trees looked quite bare, they were so long and thin; you would hardly know them for trees, and then they were laid on carts, and horses dragged them out of the wood.

Where did they go to? What became of them? In spring, when the Swallow and the Stork came, the Tree asked them, "Don't you know where they have been taken? Have you not met them anywhere?"

The Swallow did not know anything about it; but the stork looked doubtful, nodded his head, and said, "Yes, I have it; I met many new ships as I was flying from Egypt; on the ships were splendid masts, and I dare say it was they that smelt so of pine. I wish you joy, for they lifted themselves on high in fine style!"

"Oh, were I but old enough to fly across the sea! How does the sea really look? and what is it like?"

"Aye, that takes a long time to tell," said the Stork, and away he went.

"Rejoice in thy youth!" said the Sunbeams, "rejoice in thy hearty growth, and in the young life that is in thee!"

And the Wind kissed the Tree, and the Dew wept tears over him, but the Pine Tree understood it not.

II

Christmas in the Woods

When Christmas came, quite young trees were cut down; trees which were not even so large or of the same age as this Pine Tree, who had no rest or peace, but always wanted to be off. These young trees, and they were always the finest looking, always kept their branches; they were laid on carts, and the horses drew them out of the wood.

"Where are they are going to?" asked the Pine Tree. "They are not taller than I; there was one, indeed, that was much shorter;—and why do they keep all their branches? Where are they carrying them to?"

"We know! we know!" chirped the sparrows. "We have peeped in at the windows down there in the town. We know where they are carrying them to. Oh, they are going to where it is as bright and splendid as you can think! We peeped through the windows, and saw them planted in the middle of the warm room, and dressed with the most

45

46

splendid things,—with gilded apples, with gingerbread, with toys and many hundred lights!"

"And then?" asked the Pine Tree, and he trembled in every bough. "And then? What happens then?"

"We did not see anything more: it beat everything!"

"I wonder if I am to sparkle like that!" cried the Tree, rejoicing. "That is still better than to go over the sea! How I do suffer for very longing! Were Christmas but come! I am now tall, and stretch out like the others that were carried off last year! Oh, if I were already on the cart! I wish I were in the warm room with all the splendor and brightness. And then? Yes; then will come something better, something still grander, or why should they dress me out so? There must come something better, something still grander,—but what? Oh, how I long, how I suffer! I do not know myself what is the matter with me!"

"Rejoice in us!" said the Air and the Sunlight; "rejoice in thy fresh youth out here in the open air!"

But the Tree did not rejoice at all; he grew and grew; and he stood there in all his greenery; rich green was he winter and summer. People that saw him said, "That's a fine tree!" and toward Christmas he was the first that was cut down. The axe struck deep into the very pith; the Tree fell to the earth with a sigh: he felt a pang--it was like a swoon; he could not think of happiness, for he was sad at being parted from his home, from the place where he had sprung up. He well knew that he should never see his dear old comrades, the little bushes and flowers around him, any more; perhaps not even the birds! The setting off was not at all pleasant.

The Tree only came to himself when he was unloaded in a courtyard with other trees, and heard a man say, "That one is splendid! we don't want the others." Then two servants came in rich livery and carried the Pine Tree into a large and splendid room. Portraits were hanging on the walls, and near the white porcelain stove stood two large Chinese vases with lions on the covers. There, too, were large easy-chairs, silken sofas, large tables full of picture-books, and full of toys worth a hundred times a hundred dollars—at least so the children said. And the Pine Tree was stuck upright in a cask filled with sand: but no one could see that it was a cask, for green cloth was hung all around it, and it stood on a gayly colored carpet. Oh, how the Tree quivered! What was to happen? The servants, as well as the young ladies, dressed it. On one branch there hung little nets cut out of colored paper; each

net was filled with sugar-plums; gilded apples and walnuts hung as though they grew tightly there, and more than a hundred little red, blue and white tapers were stuck fast into the branches. Dolls that looked for all the world like men—the Tree had never seen such things before--fluttered among the leaves, and at the very top a large star of gold tinsel was fixed. It was really splendid—splendid beyond telling.

"This evening!" said they all; "how it will shine this evening!"

"Oh," thought the Tree, "if it were only evening! If the tapers were but lighted! And then I wonder what will happen! I wonder if the other trees from the forest will come to look at me! I wonder if the sparrows will beat against the window-panes! I wonder if I shall take root here, and stand dressed so winter and summer!"

Aye, aye, much he knew about the matter! but he had a real back-ache for sheer longing, and a back-ache with trees is the same thing as a headache with us.

III

Christmas in the House

The candles were now lighted. What brightness! What splendor! The Tree trembled so in every bough that one of the tapers set fire to a green branch. It blazed up splendidly.

Now the Tree did not even dare to tremble. That was a fright! He was so afraid of losing something of all his finery, that he was quite confused amidst the glare and brightness; and now both folding-doors opened, and a troop of children rushed in as if they would tip the whole Tree over. The older folks came quietly behind; the little ones stood quite still, but only for a moment; then they shouted so that the whole place echoed their shouts, they danced round the Tree, and one present after another was pulled off.

"What are they about?" thought the Tree. "What is to happen now?" And the lights burned down to the very branches, and as they burned down they were put out one after the other, and then the children had leave to plunder the Tree. Oh, they rushed upon it so that it cracked in all its limbs; if its tip-top with the gold star on it had not been fastened to the ceiling, it would have tumbled over.

The children danced about with their pretty toys; no one looked at the Tree except the old nurse, who peeped in among the branches; but it was only to see if there was a fig or an apple that had been forgotten.

"A story! a story!" cried the children, and they dragged a little fat man toward the Tree. He sat down under it, and said, "Now we are in the shade, and the Tree can hear very well too. But I shall tell only one story. Now which will you have: that about Ivedy-Avedy, or about Klumpy-Dumpy who tumbled downstairs, and came to the throne after all, and married the princess?"

"Ivedy-Avedy," cried some; "Klumpy-Dumpy," cried the others. There was such a bawling and screaming!—the Pine Tree alone was silent, and he thought to himself, "Am I not to bawl with the rest?—am I to do nothing whatever?"—for he was one of them, and he had done what he had to do.

And the man told about Klumpy-Dumpy who tumbled downstairs, and came to the throne after all, and married the princess. And the children clapped their hands, and cried out, "Go on, go on!" They wanted to hear about Ivedy-Avedy too, but the little man only told them about Klumpy-Dumpy. The Pine Tree stood quite still and thoughtful: the birds in the wood had never told anything like this. "Klumpy-Dumpy fell downstairs, and yet he married the princess! Yes, yes, that's the way of the world!" thought the Pine Tree, and he believed it all, because it was such a nice man who told the story.

"Well, well! who knows, perhaps I may fall downstairs, too, and so get a princess!" And he looked forward with joy to the next day when he should be decked out with lights and toys, fruits and tinsel.

"To-morrow I won't tremble!" thought the Pine Tree. "I will enjoy to the full all my splendor! To-morrow I shall hear again the story of Klumpy-Dumpy, and perhaps that of Ivedy-Avedy too." And the whole night the Tree stood still in deep thought.

In the morning the servant and the maid came in.

IV

In The Attic

"Now all the finery will begin again," thought the Pine. But they dragged him out of the room, and up the stairs into the attic; and here in a dark corner, where no daylight could enter, they left him. "What's the meaning of this?" thought the Tree. "What am I to do here? What shall I see and hear now, I wonder?" And he leaned against the wall and stood and thought and thought. And plenty of time he had, for days and nights passed, and nobody came up; and when at last somebody did come, it was only to put some great trunks in the corner. There stood the Tree quite hidden; it seemed as if he had been entirely forgotten.

"T if now winter out-of-doors!" thought the Tree. "The earth is hard and covered with snow; men cannot plant me now; therefore I have been put up here under cover till spring! How thoughtful that is! How good men are, after all! If it were not so dark here, and so terribly lonely! Not even a hare. Out there it was so pleasant in the woods, when the snow was on the ground, and the hare leaped by; yes—even when he jumped over me; but I did not like it then. It is terribly lonely here!"

"Squeak! squeak!" said a little Mouse at the same moment, peeping out of his hole. And then another little one came. They snuffed about the Pine Tree, and rustled among the branches.

"It is dreadfully cold," said the little Mouse. "But for that, it would be delightful here, old Pine, wouldn't it!"

"I am by no means old," said the Pine Tree. There are many a good deal older than I am."

"Where do you come from?" asked the Mice; and what can you do?" They were so very curious. "Tell us about the most beautiful spot on earth. Have you been there? Were you ever in the larder, where cheeses lie on the shelves, and hams hang from above; where one dances about on tallow candles; where one goes in lean and comes out fat?"

"I don't know that place," said the Tree. "But I know the wood where the sun shines; and where the little birds sing."

53

54

And then he told his story from his youth up; and the little Mice had never heard the like before; and they listened and said,—

"Well, to be sure! How much you have seen! How happy you must have been!"

I!" said the Pine Tree, and he thought over what he had himself told. "Yes, really those were happy times." And then he told about Christmas Eve, when he was decked out with cakes and candles.

"Oh," said the little Mice, "how lucky you have been, old Pine Tree!"

"I am not at all old," said he. "I came from the wood this winter; I am in my prime, and am only rather short of my age."

"What delightful stories you know!" said the Mice: and the next night they came with four other little Mice, who were to hear what the Tree had to tell; and the more he told, the more plainly he remembered all himself; and he thought: "That was a merry time! But it can come! It can come! Klumpy-Dumpy fell down stairs, and yet he got a princess! Maybe I can get a princess too!" And all of a sudden he thought of a nice little Birch Tree growing out in the woods: to the Pine, that would be a really charming princess.

"Who is Klumpy-Dumpy?" asked the little Mice.

So then the Pine Tree told the whole fairy tale, for he could remember every single word of it; and the little Mice jumped for joy up to the very top of the Tree. Next night two more Mice came, and on Sunday two Rats, even; but they said the stories were not amusing, which vexed the little Mice, because they, too, now began to think them not so very amusing either.

"Do you know only that one story?" asked the Rats.

"Only that one!" answered the Tree. "I heard it on my happiest evening; but I did not then know how happy I was."

"It is a very stupid story! Don't you know one about bacon and tallow candles? Can't you tell any larder-stories?"

"No," said the Tree.

"Thank you, then," said the Rats; and they went home.

At last the little Mice stayed away also; and the Tree sighed: "After all, it was very pleasant when the sleek little Mice sat round me and heard what I told them. Now that too is over. But I will take good care to enjoy myself when I am brought out again."

But when was that to be? Why, it was one morning when there came a number of people and set to work in the loft. The trunks were moved, the tree was pulled out and thrown down; they knocked him upon the floor, but a man drew him at once toward the stairs, where the daylight shone.

V

Out of Doors Again

"Now life begins again," thought the Tree. He felt the fresh air, the first sunbeam,—and now he was out in the courtyard. All passed so quickly that the Tree quite forgot to look to himself, there was so much going on around him. The court adjoined a garden, and all was in flower; the roses hung over the fence, so fresh and smelling so sweetly; the lindens were in blossom, the Swallows flew by, and said, "Quirre-virre-vit! my husband is come!" But it was not the Pine Tree that they meant.

"Now, I shall really live," said he with joy, and spread out his branches; dear! dear! they were all dry and yellow. It was in a corner among weeds and nettles that he lay. The golden star of tinsel was still on top of the Tree, and shone in the bright sunshine.

In the courtyard a few of the merry children were playing who had danced at Christmas round the Tree, and were so glad at the sight of him. One of the littlest ran and tore off the golden star.

"See what is still on the ugly old Christmas Tree!" said he, and he trampled on the branches, so that they cracked under his feet.

And the Tree saw all the beauty of the flowers, and the freshness in the garden; he saw himself, and he wished he had stayed in his dark corner in the attic; he thought of his fresh youth in the wood, of the merry Christmas Eve, and of the little Mice who had heard so gladly the story of Klumpy-Dumpy.

"Gone! gone!" said the poor Tree. "Had I but been happy when I could be. Gone! gone!"

And the gardener's boy came and chopped the Tree into small pieces; there was a whole heap lying there. The wood flamed up finely under the large brewing kettle, and it sighed so deeply! Each sigh was like a little shot. So the children ran to where it lay and sat down before the fire, and peeped in at the blaze, and shouted "Piff! piff!" But at every snap there was a deep sigh. The Tree was thinking of summer days in the wood, and of winter nights when the stars shone; it was thinking of Christmas Eve and Klumpy-Dumpy, the only fairy tale it had heard and knew how to tell,—and so the Tree burned out.

The boys played about in the court, and the youngest wore the gold star on his breast which the Tree had worn on the happiest evening of his life. Now, that was gone, the Tree was gone, and gone too was the story. All, all was gone, and that's the way with all stories.

Source: Good Stories For Holidays
By Frances Jenkins Olcott
Pages 317-331

D. A CHRISTMAS PLAY

PRESENT FOR SANTA by Margaret Glaser

Santa's workshop provides the setting for this Christmas play. Choral speaking, pantomime, and singing give children varied opportunities for an active part in its production.

One group seated in front of the stage (facing audience) become the narrators, choral speakers, and singing choir throughout the production. Individual children in the choir recite for the pantomime actors on stage. One to four actors can be used for each toy part. If the play is given more than once, the "actors" can be changed. Two grades can be used to make a more impressive production.

NARRATORS: It is two days before Christmas. Way up at the North Pole, Santa Claus is hard at work. Come, let's take a peek into his workshop.

SONG: (To the tune of "Up on The Housetop:)

Out in the workshop making toys
For all good little girls and boys,
Santa's as busy as can be.
I hope that he'll remember me.

Ho, ho, ho, soon he'll go,
ho, ho, ho, over the snow,
Bringing all those lovely toys
To all good little girls and boys.

NARRATORS: What's this! Santa's getting ready for a nap!

SANTA: (Walks over to his chair, yawns, and sits down) I'm getting too old for all this work.

NARRATORS: Santa's asleep.

SONG: (To the tune of "Sweet and Low")

He's asleep; he's asleep.
Santa's asleep, you see.
He's asleep; he's asleep.
He's just as tired as can be.
He has been working so hard, you know,

Getting the toys all ready to go,
To go to the girls and boys
While they are sleeping
Dreaming their dreams of toys.

61 62

NARRATORS: Santa's still sleeping and the toys are worried.

DOLL: Look how late it's getting. What shall I do? I'm not finished. My hair's a mess.

TEDDY: I don't have any ears.

BALL: And I'm flat.

CLOWN: You think you have troubles! I can't pop up.

CAT: Who ever heard of a stuffed cat without a tail?

ANGELS: (sitting) Look at us! We haven't wings or halos.

NARRATORS: The toys are sitting there looking so sad. What, indeed can be done? Santa just won't wake up. He's tired.

SONG: (To the tune of "Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be")

Oh, dear, what can the poor toys do?
Oh, dear, what can the poor toys do?
Oh, dear, what can the poor toys do?
Santa's asleep in the chair.

NARRATORS: But look, isn't that someone coming in the door? Yes, it's Brownie! Maybe he can help.

DOLL: Oh, Brownie, will you help me? Please make me beautiful for some little girl.

TEDDY: Please, give me some ears so someone will want me.

CAT: I need a tail, please.

ANGELS: Please help us. Angels must have wings.

CLOWN: Put me in my music box.

BROWNIE: (Shouts) Wait a minute! Please just be quiet! I'm all tired out. All the brownies have been out taking orders from children and checking to see if they have been good. I'm the first one back. I need some rest. (Brownie goes to a chair, side stage.)

NARRATORS: Oh! That Brownie will be no help at all. He's going to sleep. Now, what can those poor toys do?

CAT: I know. Let's wake Santa.

ALL TOYS: No. Santa's worked hard. There must be another way.

TREE: I have a suggestion.

NARRATORS: Who's that? Why, it's the Christmas tree. See, the toys have gathered around him.

ALL TOYS: Mr. Tree, what can we do? Can you help?

TREE: We all need finishing for Christmas. Even I need my ornaments and lights fixed.

ALL TOYS: Yes, but what to do?

TREE: As you probably know, Christmas is the season when people give presents and try to help others.

ANGELS: Yes, we've heard that.

TEDDY: I see what you mean.

CAT: If we all work together, we can fix each other.

DOLLS: We can do this as a surprise present for Santa.

ALL TOYS: Let's get to work!

NARRATORS: The toys are working so hard. Look how pretty they are making one another. Even the ball looks bouncy and the jack-in-the-box can pop.

SONG: (To the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel"), clown jumps up and down.

Where, oh, where is the funny clown?
He's hiding under the cover.
He'll pop up in a moment or so.
Pop! He'll start all over.

NARRATORS: Everything looks about ready.

CAT: It feels so good to have a tail. Thank you, Mr. Tree.

DOLLS: Thank you, Mr. Tree.

BALL: Let's sing for Mr. Tree.

(They all sing "O Christmas Tree.")

TREE: Hush, now, friends. Santa is beginning to wake up.

NARRATORS: The toys are all going back to their places. Look, Santa is beginning to stir. Oh, he wakes up and sees his surprise!

SANTA: What's this? I didn't finish those toys. Brownie, wake up. Did you do this?

BROWNIE: No, Santa, They were still unfinished when I came back. I was so tired I fell asleep.

SANTA: Well, whoever finished the toys...Thank you and A Very Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS SONGS

RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows.
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names,
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games
Then one foggy Christmas eve,
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee:
"Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history."
(Repeat)

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels.

Chorus:
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ The King.

JINGLE BELLS

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

(Chorus)
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!

A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride;
And soon Miss Fannie Bright,
Was seated by my side.
The horse was lean and lank,
Misfortune seemed his lot,
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upsot!

(Repeat Chorus)

DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Troll the ancient yuletide carol,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing yule before us,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
While I tell of yuletide treasure,
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the tree tops glisten,
And children listen
to hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
With every Christmas card I write,
"May your days be merry and bright.
And may all your Christmases be white."

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly peace,
Sleep in Heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, loves pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,
With the dawn of re-deeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel
The angels did sing,
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(For Spanish songs and poems please refer to "Eventos de diciembre".)

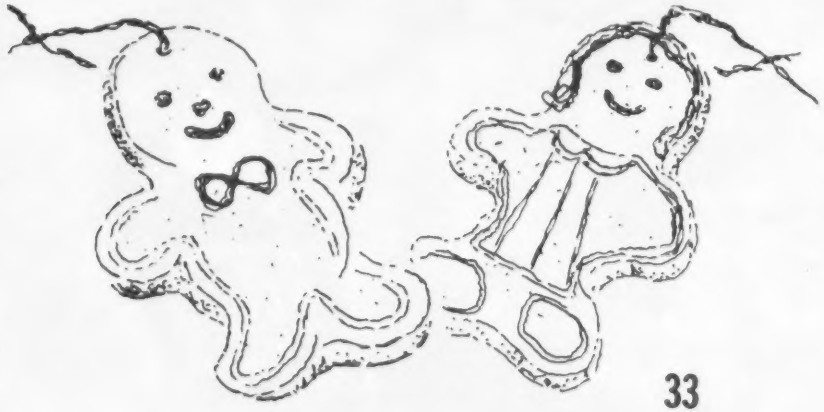
COOKIE PEOPLE

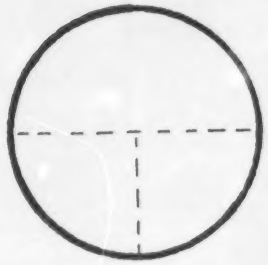
Ingredients: 1 roll (17 ounces) refrigerated sugar ready-to-slice cookie dough roll
Ready-to-spread frosting or your favorite butter cream frosting tinted to desired colors
Pressurized decorator frosting, or pastry tube and tips and tinted frosting
Decorator candies and gum drops

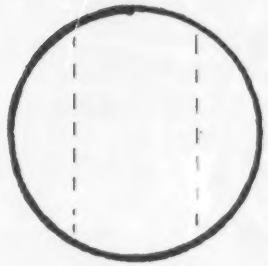
Directions: Preheat oven to 325°. For easier cutting and shaping, work with part of the dough at a time and refrigerate the rest until needed. Cut dough into 1/4 inch slices. Use 2 slices to make each cookie person. Cut one slice in half: cut one of the halves in half. Roll remaining half slice into ball. Cut a narrow strip from 2 sides of whole slice. Use rectangular center of slice for body. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Place ball on top of rectangle to form head. Attach narrow strips to body to form arms, round ends slightly. Attach 2 remaining pieces for feet; round ends to resemble feet. Bake 11 to 13 minutes, or until light golden brown. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute; remove to wire rack. Cook completely. Frost, outline and decorate with candies as desired.

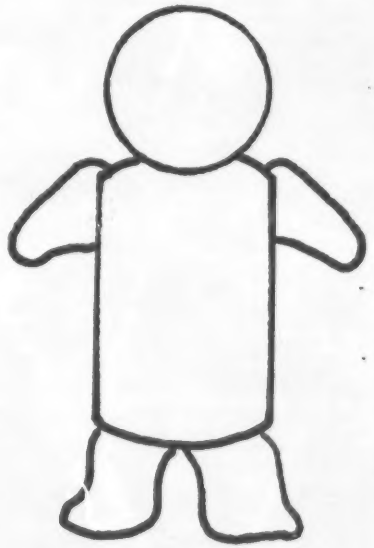
(Pictured at right)

Note: To use cookies as tree ornaments, use toothpick to poke hold in warm cookie, about 1/2 inch from top of head. Cook completely. Cut lightweight cardboard pieces to fit cookie shape. Make hole in cardboard to line up with hole in cookie; secure to cookie back with frosting. Decorate. Let dry completely. With fine yarn and needle, make loop through hole and tie knot.









POPCORN JOLLY SNOWMAN RECIPE

Ingredients:
2 quarts popped Jolly Time Popcorn
1 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup light corn syrup
1/3 cup water
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
felt or craft paper for hat
candy for eyes and buttons
candy taffy or red pipe cleaner for scarf
8-inch black pipe cleaner for pipe

Directions: Keep popcorn warm in a 250°F oven. In a 2 quart saucepan, stir together sugar, corn syrup, water, butter and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Attach candy thermometer to pan. Continue without stirring until mixture reaches 270°F (or until a small amount dropped into very cold water separates into hard, but not brittle threads). Remove from heat. Add vanilla and stir only enough to mix it through hot syrup. Pour syrup slowly over popped corn, mixing it with a fork. Continue to toss and mix to distribute syrup evenly.

While still warm, shape into balls for snowman. Use one for the head and one for the middle. To make the bottom ball larger, use the third ball and press more popcorn around it with your hands. Stack the three balls while still warm and sticky. Use the popcorn ball maker and the remaining popcorn to make additional balls.

Press candy eyes, nose, and buttons into popcorn while still warm. Wrap taffy or pipe cleaner around the snowman's neck. To make pipe, coil one half of the black pipe cleaner around your thumb. Leave the remaining of the pipe cleaner for the stem. To make the top hat cut one 4-inch circle, one 2-inch circle, and one rectangle 2 x 6½ inches from black felt or craft paper. Glue the rectangular piece into a cylinder. Glue the 2-inch circle on top of the cylinder. Glue this to the 4-inch circle and place on the snowman.

ROCKY ROADS

Ingredients:

12 double graham crackers
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 package (6 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup salted peanuts
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Prehaeat oven to 350°F. Arrange graham crackers in a single layer in a 15½ x 10½ x 1-inch jelly-roll pan. Sprinkle with marshmallows, then chocolate chips and peanuts.

In small saucepan combine butter and sugar. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until sugar is dissolved; add vanilla. Drizzle evenly over prepared graham crackers. Bake 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire rack; cut into 2 x 1-inch bars. Store covered in refrigerator up to 2 days or wrap and freeze up to 1 month. Serve at room temperature. Makes 48, about 85 calories each.

Merry Christmas